

REMARKS

The present patent application has been reviewed in light of the office action, dated November 28, 2005, in which claims 1-2, 4 and 9-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Boyd et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,166,831 (hereinafter "Boyd") in view of Ogasawara, U.S. Patent No. 4,409,625 (hereinafter "Ogasawara"). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyd in view of Ogasawara and Teeter, U.S. Patent No. 4,451,030 (hereinafter "Teeter"). Claims 5-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyd in view of Ogasawara and Shimizu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,777,308 (hereinafter "Shimizu"). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyd in view of Ogasawara, Shimizu, and Teeter. Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17 have been amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of Boyd, Ogasawara, Shimizu, and Teeter. However, Boyd, Ogasawara, Shimizu, and Teeter, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest "using the m rows of sensors concurrently to scan m document portions during the exposure time wherein each of said m document portions are not adjacent to any other of said m document portions" as claimed in claims 1, 5, and 9. Claims 11, 13, 15, and 17 are similarly not taught nor disclosed by the above-mentioned patents.

Because none of the Boyd, Ogasawara, Teeter, and Shimizu patents disclose the above claim elements, even if there was a suggestion or teaching to combine the patents, and Assignee respectfully submits that there is no such teaching or suggestion, the resulting combination would still lack at least one element of the rejected claims. Therefore, claims 1-18 are believed to patentably distinguish from the cited patents. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection as to these claims.

It is noted that claimed subject matter may be patentably distinguished from the cited patents for additional reasons; however, the foregoing is believed to be sufficient. Likewise, it is noted that the Assignee's failure to comment directly upon any of the positions asserted by the Examiner in the office action does not indicate agreement or acquiescence with those asserted positions.

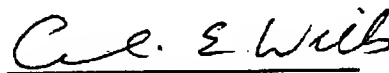
Attorney Docket: 112.P14070

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in the present patent application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500.

Reconsideration of the present patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. Please charge any underpayments or credit any overpayments to deposit account no. 50-3703.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2-24-06

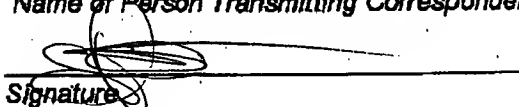
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